History of the English Cookbooks

My presentation is about the English Cookbooks in Middle English period and Early Modern English period and their language change. Historian said that by examining the ancient cookbooks, we not only can find out the life style of the people in the past, but can also learn the culture development throughout history. The first thing I would like to introduce to the class is that it is really an interesting thing learning about the development of English language and also the culture change from the cookbooks. The influence of culture change on ingredients of food can be huge. For example, due to the discovery of the new land America, lots of novel and expensive ingredients had been brought into England. Beside the actual change in food,the usage of vocabulary words also varied because of culture contacts. For instance, the Norman conquest brought huge amounts of French words into English language. But English language kept on changing. The progress can be examined in the ancient English Cookbooks.

The second thing I want to introduce is the manuscripts of the cookery books. After learning the language change of the English language, it is not difficult to recognize the vocabulary words in middle English form or early modern English form. And it's also interesting to know what food ancient people eat in their daily life.

Resource:

British Library-books for cooks

http://www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/booksforcooks/booksforcooks.html